

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1670. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 with respect to subsidy fees; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1671. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for certain hand-knotted or hand-woven carpets and leather gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

S. 1672. A bill to prevent terrorist hoaxes and false reports; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MILLER, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 1673. A bill to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon:

S. 1674. A bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to issue marketing orders for caneberries; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. Res. 177. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that United States Postal Service employees should be commended for their outstanding service and dedication since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 980

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. CARNAHAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 980, a bill to provide for the improvement of the safety of child restraints in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 990

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 990, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to improve the provisions relating to wildlife conservation and restoration programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to promote the economic security and safety of vic-

tims of domestic and sexual violence, and for other purposes.

S. 1274

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1274, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide programs for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of stroke.

S. 1377

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1377, a bill to require the Attorney General to establish an office in the Department of Justice to monitor acts of inter-national terrorism alleged to have been committed by Palestinian individuals or individuals acting on behalf of Palestinian organizations and to carry out certain other related activities.

S. 1479

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1479, a bill to require procedures that ensure the fair and equitable resolution of labor integration issues in transactions for the combination of air carriers, and for other purposes.

S. 1522

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1522, a bill to support community-based group homes for young mothers and their children.

S. 1578

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1578, a bill to preserve the continued viability of the United States travel industry.

S. 1618

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1618, a bill to enhance the border security of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1643

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. CARNAHAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1643, a bill to provide Federal reimbursement to State and local governments for a limited sales, use and retailers' occupation tax holiday.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. EDWARDS:

S. 1672. A bill to prevent terrorist hoaxes and false reports; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Punishing Terrorist Hoaxes Act of 2001.

In the days since September 11, all of us have learned that anthrax hoaxes are no joking matter. They are acts of terror in the true sense of the word because they inflict great fear and anxiety on innocent people. In addition, these hoaxes drain resources from police and emergency workers—resources desperately needed not only for the real war on terror, but for all of the ordinary emergencies that continue to arise every single day.

According to recent reports, there have been some 160 anthrax and other terrorism hoaxes since September 11. In Connecticut, one hoax triggered the evacuation of 800 government employees for two days. Hoaxes in Virginia and Oregon have shut down post offices. In my State of North Carolina, from Greensboro to Chapel Hill, hoaxes have targeted and terrified workers at family planning medical clinics—workers who already must live with death threats day in and day out.

I have spoken with law enforcement officials in North Carolina who believe we need new Federal legislation specifically to fight hoaxes. At a hearing of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information earlier this week, officials from the Bush Administration requested that legislation. In response to several questions that I asked, they articulated the very real need: Current law prohibits terrorist "threats," but terrorism hoaxes may not always be viewed as threats because the people perpetrating the hoaxes are not able and do not intend to carry out actual terrorist acts. Yet these hoaxes must be punished.

The legislation I propose builds on proposals by other Senators on both sides of the aisle, including Senator LEAHY, Senators BIDEN and HATCH, and Senators SCHUMER and DEWINE. There are two things that distinguish the legislation I propose, and I want to highlight those.

First, my proposal includes "findings" about the need for this legislation. In recent decisions holding that Federal laws are not proper exercises of Congress's "commerce clause" power and therefore are not constitutional, the Supreme Court has said that "findings" about a real Federal need are important. Although I don't agree with those recent cases, I want to do everything I can to make sure this statute is upheld in the courts. The addition of findings is one way to do that while still enacting the ban we need.

Second, my proposal establishes two Federal hoax crimes, not just one. All persons who perpetrate hoaxes are punishable by up to two years in prison. In addition, persons who perpetrate hoaxes with intent to cause fear, in a manner reasonably likely to cause an emergency response, are punishable by up to five years in prison. The line we are drawing is a line between people who